

Cambria County Member Advisory Work Group

February 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Discussion (Minutes):

- Welcome – Camette Standley, Magellan’s Community Outreach Specialist, welcomed the group and led the introduction of participants. Five Magellan staff were present, along with Magellan Members and Certified Peer Specialists.
- Icebreaker – Camette Standley led the group in an icebreaker activity. Participants introduced themselves and then gave an example of strange food they’ve eaten. The activity was voluntary, and all participated.
- Reminder about County Assistance Office – Natalie Moldofsky, Magellan’s Recovery Support Coordinator, reminded participants that the Cambria County Assistance Office had moved locations and are now located at 729 Goucher Street, Johnstown, PA 15905. The majority of participants expressed that they had known of the location change, but a few expressed they had not known the exact location.
- Access to Care – Steph Cassanese, Magellan’s Manager of Recovery and Resiliency Services reviewed access to care and facilitated a discussion on barriers to accessing services. Members explained that they have experienced waitlists. The majority of the group expressed that the biggest barrier to accessing services was the transportation to and from appointments. Participants voiced concerns over the current Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) and how at times that they couldn’t reach a staff member. Alexis Miller, Magellan’s Member and Family Advocate, reviewed that a new provider will be taking over MATP for Cambria County, and that will be CamTran, with assistance from another company Rabbit Transit. Tracy Shultz, Magellan’s Director of Operations for Cambria County, asked the group if they would want Magellan to coordinate bringing the new MATP provider to a Cambria County Community Support Program meeting, that is held monthly at the Peer Empowerment Network. Group consensus supported this idea, noting that it would be a great way to gain further accurate information regarding MATP and the changes coming to Cambria County.
- Community Centers – The group reviewed community resources such as the REACH Walk-In Crisis Center and FAVOR Laurel Highlands Recovery Community Center. Members shared that they have had a positive experience at the REACH Walk-In Crisis Center and were able to get appointments rapidly for medication management and outpatient therapy following their visit to the Crisis Center. A member shared that the REACH Walk-In Crisis Center has just begun

monthly mental health support groups for the community. One member shared their experience of calling in, and stated they were provided with multiple resources, notably they were given a “warm” line. They explained this “warm” line as a line to call to talk to someone when they are not in a crisis, but when they just need someone to listen. In regards to FAVOR Laurel Highlands Recovery Community Center, members discussed having awareness of their programming, attending “sober karaoke,” art groups, and meetings.

- Due to the absence of Behavioral Health of Cambria County (BHoCC) staff, Tracy Shultz shared an update on the reinvestment plans for the Peer Led Shelter. Tracy shared that the Cambria House (formerly Martha and Mary House) will be operated by the Women’s Help Center. An opening date has not been confirmed. The Women’s Help Center has been identified as the county’s Housing Hub by the local Housing Consortium (collaborative of housing providers and human service agencies). Tracy shared that the goal is to have a peer-led, low-barrier homeless shelter for individuals with behavioral health needs.
- Community Resources – The group reviewed local resources regarding clothing, food, pet food pantries, and local showers free to the public through a local church.
- Magellan Resources – Tracy Shultz reviewed Magellan resources, including the updated Magellan Handbook. Members were provided a handbook. MagellanofPA.com website was reviewed, as well as a flyer about our website.
- STAR Summit Update – Natalie Moldofsky reviewed the upcoming STAR Summit on May 21st, 2025. She shared the flyer for the event and explained the nomination process for awards. She asked the group for ideas for the theme of the event. Group ideas were: mindfulness matters, hope, and resiliency.
- Meeting Wrap-Up – Steph Cassanese wrapped up the meeting and shared with participants that Magellan staff would remain present following the meeting for comments, questions, or concerns.